

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

THE WILL OF CHRIST

Nicolas Edwards

Hebrews 9:15-17 says, *“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”* Consider four points about the will of Christ.

HE TAKETH AWAY THE FIRST. Before the testament or will of Christ could come into effect, another testament had to be removed. *“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he might establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* (Heb. 10:9-10). One reason the Lord came was to take away the first testament and establish the second! When one denies the first testament has been taken away, he is denying that Jesus accomplished His mission! The Lord came to fulfill the law and the prophets (Mt. 5:17). I believe with all my heart when Jesus said, *“It is finished”* (Jn. 19:30) that the Lord completed

the mission that God intended for Him to do. When Christ died and shed His blood, He fulfilled and completed the first law. He took it away, that He might establish the second.

WHEN DID THE WILL OF CHRIST GO INTO EFFECT?

The first has been taken away, but when did the Lord’s will come into play? The testament of Christ did not go into effect until Pentecost in Acts 2 — in Jerusalem, among all nations, during the last days. This is exactly what God prophesied in Isaiah 2:2-3. Isaiah, through inspiration, said, *“for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”* This agrees with what Jesus said in Luke 24:47, *“and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* At this time, the death of the Testator had recently occurred. He died, was buried, resurrected and ascended to His throne on the right hand of God. Now, for the first time, on Pentecost, the Lord’s death, burial, resurrection and ascension is preached. Not only this, but the law that told men what to do to be saved is preached in the name of Jesus Christ.

WHAT WILL THE BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE?

Since the old law is done away,

the Lord’s will is in effect and has been since Pentecost. What does the Lord offer man through His will? Becoming a child of God (Rom. 8:14). The only way one can become a child of God is through the will of Jesus Christ. All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3). *“The promise of eternal inheritance”* (Heb. 9:15). The *“hope of eternal life”* (Titus 1:2). The only way a person can have hope beyond the grave is through the will of Christ.

WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES? Who will receive the benefits of Christ’s will and testament? It is not anyone and everyone! Only those: Who come to Him (Mt. 11:28). Who are called by the gospel (Heb. 9:15; 2 Th. 2:14). Who obey His will (Heb. 5:9). Who love Him (Jn. 14:15). Who follow Him (Mt. 16:24). Who keep the commandments (Rev. 22:14). If we refuse the Lord and His will, we will not enjoy the benefits (2 Th. 1:7-9). If only more people would see the benefits of Christ’s will and submit to Him! It is up to us to bring people to Christ. No person will be a beneficiary, unless he conforms to the will of Christ. You must come to His will. Your will must yield and conform to His will. Whatever the will of Christ says, conform to it. His will has been established. Obey it!

OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER

John Edwards

The book of Ruth is the book of Redemption. The women said unto Naomi, “*Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age...*” (Ruth 4:14-15).

Two Old Testament laws come into play in the book of Ruth: (1) The law of redemption of land. Leviticus 25:25, “*If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.*” (2) The Levirate law. Deuteronomy 25:5-10, “*If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband’s brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband’s brother unto her. And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that*

his name be not put out of Israel. And if the man like not to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband’s brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother. Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; Then shall his brother’s wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother’s house. And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.” This accounts for transactions in the book of Ruth. Thus, Boaz “*bought all that was Elim-e-lech’s, and all that was Chi-li-on’s and Mah-lon’s, of the hand of Naomi. Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mah-lon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren...*” (Ruth 4:9-10). And Ruth finds herself in the lineage of Christ (Mt. 1:5).

The book of Ruth looks forward to Christ, our kinsman redeemer. John pointed out, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...*” (Jn. 1:14). Paul wrote, “*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons*” (Gal. 4:4-5). 1 Timothy 3:16 records, “*...God was manifest in the flesh....*” Hebrews 2 reveals concerning Christ, “*For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people*” (vv. 16-17). The story of Christ is the story of redemption. Christ “*...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity...*” (Titus 2:14). One must be “*baptized into Christ*” (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27) to avail himself of “*redemption through his blood*” which is in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7). As Boaz was a rescuer and restorer, Christ is our spiritual rescuer and restorer!

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